

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
Project Summary

**Task Agreement #:**

**Project Title:** POLLINATOR INVENTORY PROTOCOLS AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR NATIONAL PARKS

**Discipline:** Natural

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance/Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University

**Student Participation:** Yes

**Effective Dates:** July 1, 2021 to December 15, 2025

**Funding Amount:** \$214,587

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:**

Project goals: The development and implementation of a pollinator inventory protocol, including a training program, for leveraging citizen scientists to collect scientifically valid data to support natural resource management decisions at over 45 park units. The inventory data generated by these protocols must include documentation of levels of effort to support inferences of absences and some metric of abundance and distribution of species by site. The methods must be reproducible over time, at different parks, at different scales and useable by non-taxonomic experts in the field. Future resurveys may quantify change, and so that results from multiple parks may be rolled up for regional patterns.

Project objectives: The goals will be met by a sequence of objectives. First, protocols that allow professional staff working with citizen scientists (non-expert participants that include volunteers, community members and others) to obtain valid, reproducible inventories of pollinators in different habitats in parks will be developed, reviewed, and tested in parks identified by the NPS I&M program. After testing, the implementation will be scaled up to additional parks, with training focused on engaging student interns from diverse programs to broaden participation in park science, and on NPS staff from parks and regional offices to build in-house capabilities.